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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Felipe **García Landa** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 38th, 43rd and 48th meetings, on 14 and 31 May and 5 July 2018. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/630);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/776);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/72/789/Add.5).

[1] A/C.5/72/SR.38, A/C.5/72/SR.43 and A/C.5/72/SR.48.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.31

4. At the 43rd meeting, on 31 May, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/72/L.31).

5. At the 48th meeting, on 5 July, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, orally amended the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 10, the phrase "subject to the provisions of the present resolution," would be inserted after the words "Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions";

(b) After operative paragraph 10, a new paragraph would be added, reading:

"11. *Decides* to allocate an amount of 6,709,300 dollars for air operations from the overall resources for the Force;"

and the subsequent paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

6. At the same meeting, on behalf of the Chair, the Secretary read out amendments to the draft resolution, by which:

(a) In operative paragraph 16 (former paragraph 15) the figure 505,053,500 would be inserted before the words "dollars for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019", the figure 474,406,700 before the words "dollars for the maintenance of the Force", the figure 24,486,500 before the words "dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations" and the figure 6,160,300 before the words "dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy";

(b) Paragraphs 17 to 22 (former paragraphs 16 to 21) would be updated accordingly.

7. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Israel made a statement on the draft resolution and requested a recorded vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 14 (former paragraph 13) of the draft resolution. The Chair announced that a recorded vote had also been requested on the draft resolution as a whole.

8. Also at the 48th meeting, a statement was made on the draft resolution by the representative of the United States of America.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.31, as orally amended, as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 14 (former paragraph 13) were retained by a recorded vote of 85 to 3, with 48 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South

Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(b) Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.31, as orally amended, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 136 to 3 (see para. 11). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union) and Lebanon.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

11. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 2373 (2017) of 30 August 2017, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2018,

Recalling also its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 71/307 of 30 June 2017,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000, 55/180 A of 19 December 2000, 55/180 B of 14 June 2001, 56/214 A of 21 December 2001, 56/214 B of 27 June 2002, 57/325 of 18 June 2003, 58/307 of 18 June 2004, 59/307 of 22 June 2005, 60/278 of 30 June 2006, 61/250 A of 22 December 2006, 61/250 B of 2 April 2007, 61/250 C of 29 June 2007, 62/265 of 20 June 2008, 63/298 of 30 June 2009, 64/282 of 24 June 2010, 65/303 of 30 June 2011, 66/277 of 21 June 2012, 67/279 of 28 June 2013, 68/292 of 30 June 2014, 69/302 of 25 June 2015, 70/280 of 17 June 2016 and 71/307,

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011, 66/264 of 21 June 2012, 69/307 of 25 June 2015 and 70/286 of 17 June 2016, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 30 April 2018, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 57.6 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 87 Member States have paid their

[1] A/72/630 and A/72/776.
[2] A/72/789/Add.5.

assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that Israel did not comply with resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265, 63/298, 64/282, 65/303, 66/277, 67/279, 68/292, 69/302, 70/280 and 71/307;

5. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265, 63/298, 64/282, 65/303, 66/277, 67/279, 68/292, 69/302, 70/280 and 71/307;

6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

8. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

10. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

11. *Decides* to allocate an amount of 6,709,300 dollars for air operations from the overall resources for the Force;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289, 66/264, 69/307 and 70/286;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of resolution 59/307, paragraph 17 of resolution 60/278, paragraph 21 of resolution 61/250 A, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 B, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 C, paragraph 21 of resolution 62/265, paragraph 19 of resolution 63/298, paragraph 18 of resolution 64/282, paragraph 15 of resolution 65/303, paragraph 13 of resolution 66/277, paragraph 13 of resolution 67/279, paragraph 13 of resolution 68/292, paragraph 14 of resolution 69/302, paragraph 13 of resolution 70/280 and paragraph 14 of resolution 71/307, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount

of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017;[3]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

16. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 505,053,500 dollars for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, inclusive of 474,406,700 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 24,486,500 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 6,160,300 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

17. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 84,175,580 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2018 in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246 of 23 December 2015, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2018, as set out in its resolution 70/245 of 23 December 2015;

18. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,561,000 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,143,200 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 329,770 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 88,030 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

19. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 168,351,170 dollars for the period from 1 September to 31 December 2018, at a monthly rate of 42,087,792 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2018, as set out in its resolution 70/245, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

20. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 19 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 5,122,000 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 4,286,400 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 659,530 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 176,070 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

21. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 252,526,750 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2019, at a monthly rate of 42,087,792 dollars, in accordance with the scale of assessments for 2019 and the updated levels,[4] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

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[3] A/72/630.

[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

22. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 21 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 7,683,000 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 6,429,600 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 989,300 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 264,100 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

23. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraphs 17, 19 and 21 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the amount of 12,528,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2017, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2017, as set out in its resolution 70/245;

24. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the total amount of 12,528,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2017, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 23 above;

25. *Further decides* that the increase of 287,700 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2017 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 12,528,700 dollars referred to in paragraphs 23 and 24 above;

26. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

27. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

28. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".